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New Assertion in Barbie Case

PARIS, Nov. 13 (Reuters) — A lawyer defending the Nazi war criminal Klaus Barbie said in an interview Saturday night that a French Resistance hero committed suicide after being betrayed by his comrades.

The lawyer, Jacques Verges, told a television interviewer that the Resistance leader, Jean Moulin, killed himself in a Gestapo prison in Lyons in 1943 after being informed on by senior members of the underground.

Mr. Verges is defending Mr. Barbie, who has been charged with murdering and deporting thousands of Jews and Resistance fighters in Lyons, where he served as Gestapo chief in World War II.

In a protracted legal debate over his pending trial, which is not expected to begin before next year, Mr. Barbie has denied torturing and killing Mr. Moulin, who is regarded in France as a national hero. Mr. Barbie is not specifically accused of complicity in the Moulin affair.

In the interview, Mr. Verges said, "Jean Moulin was informed on by high officials of the Resistance who wanted to get rid of him." He added: "It is correct to say that Jean Moulin did not die as the result of blows from Barbie. It was because before the magnitude of the treason around him he considered it was the only way for him to act with

dignity. I have the means to prove it." He gave no further details.

The interviewer said that in a book to be published on Monday the lawyer asserts that Mr. Moulin was betrayed by members of the Resistance who wanted to prevent Gen. Charles de Gaulle from taking control of the network.

But Philippe Aziz, an historian of the period who is writing a book on the German occupation, said, "There is not a shadow of a trace of truth in his statements." He told the Sunday newspaper *Le Journal de Dimanche* that the assertions were an absolute deception.

Mr. Barbie, 69 years old, was deported last February from Bolivia, where he had lived in exile for 30 years. He was twice sentenced to death in absentia by French courts.

Mayor in Italy Is Arrested

MILAN, Italy, Nov. 13 (Reuters) — Magistrates investigating links between the Mafia and a number of Italian casinos have arrested the Mayor of Campione d'Italia, a millionaires' gambling resort on Lake Lugano. The arrest of Mayor Sergio Costioli and his deputy Saturday night brings to 25 the number of casino executives and public figures detained since the operation began Friday.